

WYOMING STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGRICULTURE 2002-2007



FINAL RESULTS

APRIL 2007

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Goal #1

Increase the level of business skills for the management of capital, land, labor and equipment.

1-1. Encourage and facilitate young people to view and participate in agriculture as a viable business.

1-1 a. Seek legislation to develop an “Aggie Bond” program for beginning producers.

Output: Develop a strategy prior to the 2003 session to get bill passed.

Results:

- 1998-1999 a bill was tried but didn’t have a lot of interest in the program by the legislature, because state lands and investment already has a program.
- 2002-the bill failed in legislature.
- New strategy: contact other state programs to learn how this was accomplished.

1-1 b. Educate producers on recent changes regarding the “death tax”

Output: Develop an education program, i.e., brochures, workshops, conferences, etc.

Results:

- Completed: the inheritance amount was raised.

1-1 c. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the “Farm Loan Program”-make recommendations

Output: Investigate the possibility of using dollars to purchase development rights for the state if the interest rates are increasing.

Results:

- The beginning farmer/rancher program has been implemented.

- Rules were refined in 2008 to increase loan limits; modify loan terms and conditions; make conforming amendments; and provide for an effective date.

1-1 d. Find interested producers in fostering young people into ag business

Output: Contact large corporations with significant land ownership to seek potential opportunities for young people.

Results:

- As of 2007 nothing has been done.

1-1 e. Develop a comprehensive list of tools available for young people to seek careers in agriculture

Output: Prepare a total package of tools, i.e., education, financing, etc.

Results:

- A brochure was created about financial tools available for agriculture.
- WBC Agribusiness Division website has an extensive list of funding opportunities for agriculture.

1-1 f. Encourage and increase entrepreneurship/value added

Output: Increase the number and types of products sold.

Results:

- .WBC Agribusiness works one-on-one with producers.
- Held conferences on organic products and Farmers Market Conferences.

1-1 g. Evaluate risk for young producers

Output: A. Develop information for evaluating risk and create technical and marketing facilities to help entrepreneurs to move from conceptualization to production.

B. Develop models for assessing risk.

C. Prepare technology assessments.

Results:

- WBC helps people to analyze business plans and create marketing strategies.

- UW Cooperative Extension specialists conduct risk management trainings across Wyoming each year for producers. They also produce written risk management education materials targeting producers. For example, “Barnyards and Backyards” newspaper inserts contain risk management education articles in each quarterly issue.

1-2. Improve financing opportunities for agriculture.

1-2 a. Evaluate the potential of a “loan guarantee” program between the state and private lenders

Output: Develop a loan guarantee program

Results:

- The WBC has a loan guarantee program.

1-3. Develop a strategy to strengthen the “Wyoming Leadership Education and Development Program.”

1-3 a. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the current program

Output: Develop a presentation with recommendations to the Wyoming Business Council and agriculture organizations.

Results:

- The WBC does this on an annual basis through a survey instrument and interviews with class members and graduates.

1-3 b. Develop a strategy to ensure support and funding for the program from all partners for the long term

Output: Evaluate all funding options and implement recommendations.

Results:

- The Wyoming Ag Leadership Council continues to try to find new funding opportunities, including grant writing.

1-4. Develop legislative support for agriculture.

1-4 a. Inform, educate and seek assistance from key legislators to support agriculture

Output: A. Develop a comprehensive education program that stresses the importance of agriculture to Wyoming communities.

B. Target key leaders on all legislative committees-develop understanding.

C. Propose a work session with key legislators every December with all ag organizations.

D. Develop a specific list of current priorities to discuss with legislators.

E. Coordinate legislative functions with all interested organizations.

Results:

- Numerous efforts have been made to inform and educate legislators. However, a specific program has not been developed.

1-4 b. Develop a legislative issues meeting with legislators prior to the session

Output: Build this into a major media event. Coordinate with all interim joint committee meetings between sessions.

Results:

- This has not developed into a major media event, but meetings do happen on a regular basis as needed by the agriculture organizations and the agriculture government organizations.
- Good idea to carry forward.
- Some agriculture organizations also have legislative issues breakfast or meetings.

1-5. Maintain a “favorable” tax status for agriculture.

1-5 a. Monitor and evaluate potential changes in “property tax” status

Output: Develop recommendations for the agriculture industry.

Results:

- Work has been done on this project, but changes occur every legislative session.
- This is an issue that tends to be examined every legislative session and is ongoing.
- Proposed changes in property tax that could have negatively impacted agriculture have all been defeated.

1-5 b. Develop a strategy to evaluate “sales tax” exemptions for agriculture equipment

Output: Successful passage of legislation.

Results:

- Completed: legislation was passed.

1-6. Promote a stable labor force for the agriculture industry.

1-6 a. Examine the immigration laws and ensure they meet the needs of the Wyoming agriculture industry

Output: Implement recommendations to improve current status.

Results:

- Examinations of industries have been made, i.e., the wool and crop industries.
- Laws may not meet the needs of the agriculture industry, but we are unsure of how to make federal laws meet the needs of Wyoming agriculture industry since currently the laws do not meet our needs.

1-6 b. Evaluate potential labor sources for the ag industry

Output: Identify and recruit the labor force in the highest priority areas for agriculture in the state.

Results:

- Evaluation is complete: there is a shortage of labor force in Wyoming.



Goal #2

Develop and expand marketing programs

2-1. Promote the voluntary implementation of new generation cooperatives, limited liability corporations and sub-chapter “s” corporations.

2-1 a. Promote the legislative support and funding for a position with expertise in these areas

Output: Develop a position within the WBC.

Results:

- The WBC received some funding and devoted significant staff time to working with cooperatives.

2-1 b. Develop educational materials on pro’s and cons to new generation cooperatives

Output: Develop a comprehensive education package.

Results:

- Accomplished and on-going: Verbal education has occurred on a regular basis and the Rocky Farmers Union Cooperative Center has information available.

2-1 c. Develop educational material on limited liability cooperatives and sub-chapter “s” corporations. Look at tax consequences as well as inheritance advantages and disadvantages

Output: Develop a comprehensive education package.

Results:

- No information.

2-2. Look at marketing opportunities for agriculture.

2-2 a. Develop a grant/loan program for the development of value-added products and marketing.

Output: Develop an effective grant/loan program through the WBC for value-added production.

Results:

- House Bill 186 was proposed in the 2007 legislative session and failed.

2-2 b. Focus on the marketing of Wyoming wheat. We need to maintain our product identity and value. Wyoming wheat is generally a high protein wheat that is mixed with inferior wheat and then marketed.

Output: Hire a marketing specialist to develop and implement a marketing plan for the Wyoming wheat industry.

Results:

- The Wyoming Wheat Commission hired a marketing specialist.

2-2c. Promote farmers' markets in all communities throughout Wyoming.

Output: Increase the number of farmers' market events and locations throughout the state.

Results:

- Two farmers' market conferences have been held by the joint efforts of the WDA, WBC, Wyoming Rural Development Council and Cooperative Extension.
- A Wyoming Farmers' Marketing Association was created and the Association hosted its first conference in February 2007.
- At least 11 new markets have been created.
- The WBC created a grant program to help market Wyoming farmers' markets.

2-2 d. Promote Wyoming hay as a quality product-value in protein, Total Density Nutrients, etc. This market can be expanded in domestic and foreign areas.

Output: Increase the sales for high quality hay.

Results:

- The WBC has stepped up the marketing efforts for hay; the hay show was totally revamped, creating a lot more interest in Wyoming hay.
- Marketing at the World Dairy Expo and other venues has increased interest in the Wyoming hay.

2-2 e. Develop a certification program for organic products. Consumers continue to demand and are willing to pay for organic products.

Output: Increase the sales of organic products.

Results:

- WDA and WBC have met and decided that this is not always needed because there are plenty of private industries that already offer certification. However, WBC works with producers who have an interest in becoming certified.

2-2 f. Encourage that state to look at the establishment of foreign offices like the Pacific Rim, Middle East, Australia, etc., to market Wyoming products. Many states establish offices in key areas for their products which produce numerous benefits, i.e., potential for specialized “horses” and value added products.

Output: Develop one foreign office in a key location.

Results:

- Governor Geringer and Freudenthal are not interested in developing foreign offices.
- The WDA receives MAP funding to enhance international marketing efforts.
- The WBC works in foreign countries through federally funded programs to promote Wyoming value added products, mostly through trade shows and trade missions.

2-2g. Develop a strategy to improve the marketing of Wyoming livestock.

Output: A. Re-emphasize Wyoming Beef Quality.

B. Develop incentives for participants in the Beef Quality Assurance Program.

C. Capitalize on the quality of Wyoming commercial cattle.

Results:

- WBC has developed a Wyoming verified program for source, age and natural livestock.

2-2 h. Promote the seed stock industry for beef cattle in Wyoming.

Output: Develop a marketing plan in the Rocky Mountain area to promote Wyoming seed stock.

Results:

- The WBC works on this daily.

2-2 i. We need to have source verification and maintain the Wyoming identity on agriculture products.

Output: Initiate two programs that maintain Wyoming product identity.

Results:

- WBC has developed a Wyoming verified program for source, age and natural livestock.
- Ongoing efforts to attempt to “brand” Wyoming products.

2-2 j. Evaluate the benefits of the \$500,000 from USDA to promote agriculture in Wyoming.

Output: Make recommendations to the ad hoc committee that was established by the WBC in 2001.

Results:

- A full review of all grants was completed.
- 12 grants were awarded: \$500,000 was distributed among 12 recipients.
- The grape and wine industry, organic crops, farmers’ markets, and other specialty crops have seen an increase because of the grants, creating more momentum.

2-2 k. Market Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain Mystique

Output: Identify five new agriculture products that are branded “made in Wyoming” or “made in the Rocky Mountains.”

Results:

- Through the “Wyoming First” program, the WBC markets any Wyoming products.
- WDA and WBC held several meetings across Wyoming looking at the potential of "organic" products. There are now several organic producers with wheat leading the effort.

2-2 l. Control our markets. Monitor major Wyoming crops and products for supply and demand.

Output: Increase Wyoming’s ag product gross sales.

Results:

- Do not think this has occurred. Difficult to measure.

2-2 m. Centralize web marketing.

Output: Measure the number of hot links for Wyoming products and number of hits on the website.

Results:

- The WBC created an online farm, ranch and agribusiness directory.

2-2 n. Need to promote, educate, and support check-off's.

Output: Survey of producers for support of the program bi-annually.

Results:

- The Wyoming Beef Council commissioned an independent survey of Wyoming beef producers in December 2005. Ninety-two percent of Wyoming beef producers were aware of the beef check-off. Seventy percent of Wyoming's beef producers support the beef check-off in its current form which is a 5% increase from the 2003 survey.

2-2 o. Establish a “seal of quality” to be used on all Wyoming Product labels and expand the “Wyoming’s Best” program.

Output: Increase the number of quality products being marketed by 5%.

Results:

- Ag products are eligible for the “Wyoming First” program.
- The “Wyoming First” program has increased.

2-2 p. Evaluate the pro’s and con’s of free-trade agreements on Wyoming agriculture. Develop a strategy on how to capitalize on the positive elements.

Output: Develop and present a report to the ag industry in Wyoming.

Results:

- The industry continues to get involved in the Free Trade Agreements.
- The agriculture organizations achieve this through their lobbying efforts.
- The WBC has made strides to market Wyoming products.

2-2 q. Promote ethanol development statewide

Output: One additional plant in Wyoming

Results:

- A new plant is being built in Greybull.
- The WDA has worked with some firms on "bio-diesel" production in Wyoming. Blue Sun has contracted for canola in Wyoming. The plant in Gillette is still moving forward. There is still tremendous opportunity in this area.

2-2 r. Evaluate the potential to develop private wind power opportunities for producers

Output: Promote additional wind power development.

Results:

- WDA organized appropriate organizations in 2005 to discuss potential for wind power development on Wyoming’s agriculture lands and in the possibility for co-ops.
- A Wyoming Wind Working Group was formed in 2006-2007.

- The Roping the Wind Conference was created in 2003 and continued through 2007 to promote wind energy opportunities in Wyoming.
- In 2006 five producers received value added grant for wind energy projects.
- The WBC successfully recruited a German vertical turbine company to Wyoming in 2006.
- WDA Natural Resources section worked on the marketing of "wind energy" and "carbon credits"; both of which are becoming reality.

2-2 s. Evaluate malting opportunities in Wyoming

Output: Evaluation report to ag industry

Results:

- Information not available.

2-2 t. Evaluate dairy expansion in Wyoming.

Output: Evaluation report to agriculture industry.

Results: No official evaluation has been done

- The WDA and the WBC worked closely to bring the dairy in Carpenter in Wyoming.
- WBC works with existing dairies to convert to organic.
- Recruiting new dairies at the World Dairy Expo happens annually.

2-2 u. Promote an improved transportation system to the Big Horn Basin

Output: Plan for long-term improvement of the transportation system

Results:

- Nothing has occurred.

2-2 v. Evaluate the potential of using private reservoirs for power generation i.e., water turbines

Output: Publish potential results for cost effective energy generation

Results:

- Unable to find information.

2-3. Develop opportunities for USDA plant and animal bi-products.

2-3 a. Evaluate the potential for a USDA meat plant in Wyoming

Output: Successfully promote one USDA plant in Wyoming.

Results:

- WDA, WBC and Wyoming Rural Development Council worked together to obtain a grant for a USDA mobile slaughtering unit for Wyoming. The grant was not successful.
- Efforts have been made to obtain a USDA plant in Powell, Wyoming.
- There have been at least three state inspected meat plants that requested a federal inspector review their plants to see what needed to be done in the plant for them to come under federal inspection. All three plants felt it was not economically worth their effort to try to come under federal inspection. Currently it has been rumored a federal plant may try to open in the northern part of the state but so far it is just that.
- There has been no research into starting a plant to process animal bi-products, but there has been considerable research into composting of animal bi-products by WDA Consumer Health Services personnel. This appears to be feasible within the state and could assist the meat plants in Wyoming if the landfills decide to stop accepting animal bi-products for disposal.
- WDA has worked nationally to allow USDA Certified meat plants to sell products across state lines. Legislation is pending.

2-3 b. Find a market for offal products. In large operations, the offal market makes a significant impact on the bottom line. Look at the opportunities for its use instead of sending it to landfills, i.e., for pet food.

Output: Develop one new market in Wyoming for offal products.

Results:

- Postponed as of 2004.

2-3 c. Research leather companies for their needs and recruit them to Wyoming. Hides are bringing minimal prices from cattle or from wildlife. There are many opportunities.

Output: Find one additional new market for Wyoming leather products.

Results:

- Agriculture personnel have met with several communities interested in having a USDA plant. The one in Powell may become a reality. There is also a lot of interest in Wheatland/Torrington area.
- On leather products, contacted Wells Lamont; they were interested in the "wild game" hides from Wyoming. We do not slaughter enough cattle in Wyoming to lure a company in.

2-3 d. Develop markets for wool and wool pelts

Output: Find one additional market for Wyoming wool.

Results:

- Mountain States Lamb Co-op is pursuing markets.
- Producers pursue this constantly.

2-4. Develop protections for agriculture producers and their products.

2-4 a. Educate producers on the new lien law and changes to the grain warehouse laws that have passed.

Output: Review the grain warehouse law to ensure livestock producers have financial protection. Develop a comprehensive evaluation of producer protection from bankruptcies beyond their control.

Results:

- A new law went into effect in 2005.
- New regulations went into effect in 2005-2006.
- WDA has developed a grain warehouse auditor position

2-4 b. Develop a strategy to coordinate state/federal legislation on Country of Origin.

Output: Accomplish the passage of federal legislation and coordinate with state law.

Results:

- A very weak Wyoming Law was passed. When doing inspections at grocery stores the WDA checks for the limited labeling required.
- On a national basis legislation was passed. **The WDA has signed an MOU with USDA to begin COOL inspections once the law goes into effect.**

2-4 c. Develop a program to educate consumers on the Country of Origin Law

Output: Initiate a market survey to evaluate the knowledge level of consumers on country of origin products.

Results:

- The Wyoming Food Safety Rule contains a section regarding the labeling of meat products from other countries. WDA, CONSUMER HEATH SERVICES DIVISION inspectors enforce this regulation during their routine inspections in retail establishments. To our knowledge, there has been no market survey to evaluate the consumers' knowledge of country of origin products.

2-4 d. Revitalize the Beef Quality Assurance program.

Output: Have a 5% price incentive for accredited producers.

Results:

- The results have been delayed due to lack of materials and support on the national level.
- The program is currently being evaluated with go-forward recommendations anticipated by January 2008.

2-5. Implement a quality seed lab in Northwest Wyoming.

2-5 a. Oversee the construction and development of a quality seed lab in Powell, Wyoming.

Output: Positive evaluations from 90% of seed lab users.

Results:

- Completed.

2-6. Develop a strategy to assure consumers that our food in the U.S. is the safest in the world.

2-6 a. Develop a media program for safe food assurance. Look at all news media and identify who, what, when, etc.

Output: Survey to measure consumer confidence.

Results:

- WDA CONSUMER HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION, in conjunction with the Wyoming Food Safety Coalition, routinely sends out media articles on various aspects of food safety. The articles are sent out by the WDA media person who also reviews the articles for the who, what, when, etc.

2-7. Audit and evaluate the adequacy of the State's commodity sampling and weight and measures device inspection programs to ensure customers are receiving the products they pay for.

2-7 a. Establish a task force to audit and review all state testing programs.

Output: Recommendations to Wyoming Department of Agriculture Director.

Results:

- No "formal" task force has been developed. However, the WDA's Technical Services Division's strategic planning sessions created teams of staff who generated questionnaires to the public who are served by our programs.
- Major plant Industry and weights & measures programs were surveyed, with reports provided to WDA leadership.
- Legislative interim study is being conducted to look at weights and measures revisions



Goal #3

Increase the public's understanding of agriculture.

3-1. Strengthen support for Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom and other agriculture/natural resource education efforts.

3-1 a. Evaluate the current strengths and weaknesses of the Wyoming Ag in the Classroom (WAIC) Program.

Output: Make and implement recommendations to the Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Board and the WDA Director.

Results:

- WDA and WAIC work together annually to create a strategic plan. All programs also undergo an evaluation from the participants, and all evaluations are used to modify WAIC programming to meet the needs of Wyoming students and teachers.

3-1 b. Develop and implement a long-term strategy to strengthen Wyoming Ag in the Classroom (WAIC)

Output: Make and implement recommendations to the Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Board and the WDA Director.

Results:

- WAIC/WDA review and renew the Memorandum of Understanding between WDA and WAIC as needed.
- WAIC holds monthly meetings of the executive board to help drive programs.

3-1 c. Build unity between all agriculture organizations and Wyoming Ag in the Classroom.

Output: Evaluate the effectiveness of Wyoming Ag in the Classroom activities by all ag organizations and implement their recommendations.

Results:

- WAIC presents and attends multiple agriculture organization conferences and meetings.
- WAIC collaborates on many projects with various agriculture organizations.

3-1 d. Make continuing education programs through Wyoming Ag in the Classroom. Develop a statewide program that will strengthen relationships with teachers and local ranchers.

Output: Increase the number of teachers impacted by 10% annually.

Results:

- WAIC sponsors the Natural Resource Discovery Rendezvous, which is a class designed to introduce teachers to the outdoor classroom concept and to link teachers with local resources as well as build a statewide network of professional educators. This class is offered for University credit and for PTSB credit.
- WAIC helps to host the CRM in the Classroom class with the University of Wyoming.
- WAIC works with school districts to develop professional development programs to meet specific needs.

3-1 e. Promote more school interaction with local agriculture enterprises i.e., tours.

Output: Coordinate five tours per year throughout the state for all education levels.

Results:

- Tours and outdoor classrooms are set up for teachers.

3-2. Promote internal and external communications for agriculture.

3-2 a. Promote an information/education division within the Department of Agriculture statewide. Seek support of the Wyoming legislature

- Output:**
- A. Evaluate the need for an effective and comprehensive information/education program within the WDA.
 - B. Evaluate additional needs for policy to augment existing efforts.

Results:

- A public information officer has been hired by the WDA.

3-2 b. Evaluate the prospect of a satellite office for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture in Western Wyoming.

Output: Increase participation by the WDA in agriculture and natural resources issues by 10% in Western Wyoming. Active participation in 90% of all NEPA decisions by Federal agencies in Western Wyoming.

Results:

- Accomplished.

3-2 c. Develop a strategy to strengthen “Ag Unity” in Wyoming to improve communications with all agriculture organizations.

Output: A. Annually review and seek improvement in the accomplishments.
B. Promote two meetings annually with 90% participation by all ag organizations.

Results:

- Not completed.

3-2 d. Re-establish an annual Governor’s Tour for Wyoming communities.

Output: Have an annual tour with participant evaluations.

Results:

- The WDA and the Governors office have re-established the annual Governor’s Tour.

3-2 e. Develop a comprehensive media program for agriculture.

Output: Implement and evaluate a media plan annually.

Results:

- WDA has created a media program; uncertain how many other agriculture organizations have developed one.

3-2 f. Develop two workshops for media relations: one to educate agriculture producers or organizations on how to work with the media and one directly with the Wyoming media on the value of agriculture.

Output: Evaluations of workshops and develop a long-term media strategy

Results:

- The WDA public information officer has developed a Communications 101 course that is used by the department and adaptable to the industry.

Promote the Wyoming State Fair as the “premier” agriculture education “expo” for all Wyoming residents.

3-3 a. Develop a long-term improvement plan including capital construction. Look at new proposals including an equine center, multipurpose center, etc.

Output: Evaluate and implement the plan and monitor the progress annually.

Results:

- The Wyoming Winter Ag Expo was held at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in January 2007 to increase year-around usage of the facilities.
- Construction on the Livestock Pavilion and the Show Center are complete. Construction of a new horse stalling facility is under way.
- A tree renewal program “Living Legacy” was put into place in 2007 to plant new trees at the Park by the Board of Agriculture
- Improvements have been made to the campground including ADA accessibility.
- Electrical upgrading has been done throughout the Park as well as paving.
- Replacement of the housing provided to the Park Director is underway.
- Goals are to continue to promote and create a plan of action to promote the Wyoming State Fair.

3-3 b. Recruit “non-agriculture” legislators to attend State Fair.

Output: Have ten different legislators attend annually.

Results:

- Completed. Legislative beef and swine show puts a legislator with a young person to help young person show the animal.

3-3 c. Improve communications with all county fair boards in Wyoming.

Output: Survey all county fairs on their evaluation of the Wyoming State Fair and related communications/partnerships.

Results:

- Not accomplished, but is a goal of the new State Fair Director.

3-3 d. Increase statewide memberships for F.A.I.R.

Output: Have a 10% increase in the number of memberships.

Results:

- Continued work is being done to increase memberships both locally and statewide.

3-4. Promote a strong, viable vocational education program.

3-4 a. Evaluate the current vocational education program and develop recommendations.

Output: Make a presentation to the Board of Education, state Legislators, school administrators and others.

Results:

- Unable to find information for update.

3-4 b. Evaluate vocational courses offered at high school and junior college level.

Identify the needs and make recommendations.

Output: Make a presentation to the Board of Education, state Legislators, school administrators and others.

Results:

- Unable to find information for update.

3-4 c. Develop a long-term plan for vocational education

Output: Implement the plan and monitor the progress annually.

Results:

- Unable to find information for update.

3-4 d. Evaluate the potential of an Associate's Degree available in vocational agriculture. Evaluate the need for a comprehensive farm and ranch management course.

Output: Implement recommendations and monitor the progress. Coordinate with all community colleges. Develop recommendations on both.

Results:

- University of Wyoming (UW) has no associate's degrees.
- Associate's degrees are within the primary responsibility of our community colleges.
- UW does offer classes in farm and ranch management as a part of our degree program in Agricultural Business.



Goal #4

Enhance renewable natural resources

4-1. Pro-actively address wildlife/livestock issues.

4-1 a. Develop a strategy to encourage a strong relationship with ag producers, sportsmen and wildlife interests. Discuss the benefits of private lands for wildlife and the benefits of predator management.

Output: Evaluate the progress of the strategy and adjust accordingly.

Results:

- Ongoing effort. Local predator boards have expanded to include wildlife interests.
- The Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) was created in 1999 by the Legislature which brings together WDA, Game and Fish, cattle producers, sportsmen, and the Predatory Animal Boards to mitigate the loss of wildlife and livestock from predators.
- Legislation appropriated 5.4 million per biennium for the Predatory Animal Board who meet criteria including have three sportsmen on those boards, which passes through the ADMB.
- A cooperative effort between the WDA and Game and Fish Departments has been accomplished through renewed communication of the two directors.

4-1 b. Identify, evaluate and recommend tools that may address wildlife/livestock issues. Tools for consideration would include damage claims, predator management, livestock/wildlife diseases, landowner incentives and landowner licenses.

Output: Review and evaluate the progress.

Results:

- Most of the tools have been identified; predator management has been addressed by restructuring the board.

- The WDA developed, and implemented Technical Review Team (TRT) process to scientifically evaluate wildlife/livestock conflicts and then make recommendations based on the findings. This process also involves gathering the stakeholders together to review the situation and effectively communicate the issues whereby agreements can be reached. An action plan is then developed to identify who, what, when, where and how to resolve the conflict.

4-1 c. Promote the value of wildlife and its habitat for private landowners and sportsmen. Set-up an expanded “Ranching for Wildlife” program similar to Colorado’s Ranching for Wildlife Program. Identify the economic incentives of wildlife as value-added. Limited public access would be a benefit. Increase the health and viability of both wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Output: Develop and implement an evaluation process for action items to improve wildlife and their habitat.

Results:

- We do not have a ranching for wildlife program.
- WDA is a Charter Partner of the Western Landscape Conservation Initiative along with other natural resource organizations.
- WDA is involved with the Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative.
- WDA worked with WACD in obtaining an additional \$250,000 in competitive grant dollars per biennium for Conservation Districts to address rangeland and wildlife habitat issues.
- The districts solicit grant applications from local landowners to develop plans to improve rangelands and wildlife habitat.

4-1 d. Re-establish the Multiple-use Advisory Council

Output: Establishment of a statewide multi-use Advisory Council. Monitor its effectiveness by evaluating accomplishment of common goals.

Results:

- Unable to find information to update.

4-1 e. Re-establish regional grazing boards.

Output: Have functioning regional grazing boards.

Results:

- Not completed.

4-1 f. Document contributions of agriculture to wildlife. Educate legislators, sportsmen, etc. Game and Fish has some information on the portion of private lands currently being used to help support wildlife.

Output: Develop an improved partnership between ag and wildlife.

Results:

- Very hard to measure results.

4-2. Improve agriculture's relationship with federal land managers.

4-2 a. Set up annual meeting with all BLM managers, FS Ranger Districts, and ag leaders. Discuss issues and concerns of each BLM Field Officer and FS District Ranger. Improve communications. Discuss monitoring techniques as needed.

Output: Develop an annual meeting with all participants and evaluate/adjust accordingly.

Results:

- Accomplished and on-going.

4-2 b. Develop a strategy to encourage additional local control regarding federal decisions.

Output: Implement and evaluate the strategy.

Results:

- Continue to strive for this.
- Advocate for local governments to obtain and maintain cooperative agency status.

4-2 c. Provide training for permittees regarding "negotiations"

Output: Train 50 permittees per year in “negotiations.”

Results:

- WDA’s Agriculture Mediation Program completed four workshops in April of 2003.

4-2 d. Adopt a program for ranchers to manage their livestock in a manner that results in improved health of the resource. In return, ranchers have incentives such as increased AUM’s, etc.

Output: Implementation of an incentive-based program that rewards improved resource health.

Results:

- The TRT process was developed to improve management abilities and to improve working relationships with federal land managers; as a result AUM’s were either maintained or increased.
- WDA’s Natural Resources and Policy Division also has works to improve the Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process to address resource concerns, improve communications with federal land managers and enhance the opportunity for increased AUMs.
- The Duncan Ranch CRM is an example of how the process was fine tuned.
- WDA’s Natural Resources and Policy Division initiated the Jonah Infill Office to include BLM, DEQ, WGF, and WDA representatives to award grants, evaluate and monitor resource conditions, mitigate loss of AUM’s and generally improve working relations between landowners and agencies in the Pinedale area.

4-2 e. Management of wild horses to be consistent with appropriate management levels.

Output: Strive to attain BLM’s appropriate management levels of wild horse numbers in all wild horse areas.

Results:

- Several industry meetings were held with BLM at the federal level to address the wild horse issue.

- Several Wyoming producers were able to adopt large numbers of horses to train and sell through a pilot program.
- The WDA came to a legal agreement with the BLM to get horses to appropriate management level, but not accomplished.
- A Wyoming producer has just received a contract for a sanctuary in Southwestern Wyoming.
- WDA won a suit filed against BLM to have them adhere to the prescribed AMLs on the wild horse population.

4-2 f. Promote education tours for permittees and federal land managers to encourage understanding and communication.

Output: One tour in each of the following areas in Wyoming: Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast.

Results:

- This is part of the Governors Natural Resource Tour.
- The WDA Director and the Natural Resources Section personnel tour those areas annually in conjunction with both BLM and FS personnel.

4-3. Promote incentives to show value for non-traditional commodities as a positive impact on agriculture, i.e., open space, endangered species, clean air and water, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

4-3 a. Develop a strategy to promote incentives for agriculture producers. Part of the strategy may include working with future Farm Bills.

Output: Create and implement two new incentives for agriculture producers, i.e., carbon sequestration, grassland preserve program, etc.

Results:

- Carbon sequestration meetings have been held with constituent groups attending and leadership from WDA Natural Resources and Policy and the DEQ.

- WDA has worked closely with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture on the 2007 Farm Bill.

4-4. Develop a strategy to improve weed management programs and processes.

4-4 a. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current weed management programs. Work closely with Wyoming weed and pest districts. Develop recommendations for improvement.

Output: Implement all recommended improvements.

Results:

- Weed and Pest initiatives include finalizing an "Early Detection Rapid Response" program for noxious weeds and pests within the state. This program is enhanced by state funding under our Emergency Insect Management Grants and the Pesticide Registration Fee grants.
- Cooperative weed control efforts are ongoing on a salt cedar/Russian olive project with five counties. A cooperative effort with Nebraska on the North Platte is ongoing. In addition, last year Weed and Pest began participation in a 5-state regional plan for invasive weeds.

4-5. Develop tools to assist producers with public land permits.

4-5 a. Educate and encourage permit "range monitoring."

Output: 5% increase in the number of permittees with monitoring results.

Results:

- Education is ongoing; we may not have reached 5%, but there has been an increase.
- The WDA, the Wyoming State Grazing Board, The University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension, and local Conservation Districts are working with State and Federal Agencies on Joint Cooperative Monitoring

4-5 b. Promote the use of CRM on federal allotments.

Output: Three new CRM's on federal allotments.

Results:

- The WDA, Natural Resource Division is coordinating the development of CRM's for federal allotments.

4-6. Develop an effective predator management program for Wyoming.

4-6 a. Develop a comprehensive strategy to strengthen our predator management program.

Output: Improved predator management statewide with a 10% reduction in livestock/wildlife losses by predators.

Results:

- On-going.

4-6 b. Evaluate the effectiveness of the ADMB legislation.

Output: Recommendation to the Wyoming legislature to improve the program.

Results:

- This is ongoing, but new legislation was introduced in the 2006 session with a number of amendments to the current law which resulted in a \$6 Million appropriation: \$300K to the WDA for program administration and a program coordinator; \$5.7 million of funding goes through the ADMB via grant process for allocation to the county predator management districts.
- In 2007 the sunset was removed for this program and the \$6 Million became part of the WDA standard budget.
- Numerous wildlife and livestock programs have been funded through the ADMB



Goal #5

Identify, promote and implement research priorities for Wyoming agriculture.

5-1. Identify knowledge gaps and determine research priorities for agriculture in Wyoming.

5-1 a. Review the publication “Research and Extension Priorities for Wyoming,” originally published in June 1992.

Output: Identify National Goals (from USDA) for Research and Extension.

- An ag system that is highly competitive in the global economy
- A safe and secure food and fiber system
- A healthy, well nourished population
- Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment
- Enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans

Results:

- Publication has been reviewed; a new survey completed and published.
- University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station both conduct stakeholder assessments of need annually. These are used to target programs.

5-1 b. Evaluate local priorities with national goals.

Output: Determine relevance of national goals to Wyoming’s problems.

- Meet with exploratory regional focus groups in the State to determine whether different research and extension objectives need to be established that are more specific to Wyoming
- Minimize duplications with improved coordination

Results:

- Not completed.

5-1 c. Develop and implement a statewide survey on research and extension needs. Focus on family farms/ranchers. Focus on concerns and issues with significant impact to production agriculture.

Output: Completed survey to be reviewed annually.

Results:

- Survey completed and results published.

5-1 d. Develop an advisory committee to evaluate research needs.

Output: Prioritize needs, review existing literature and find funding to meet the research needs.

Results:

- Unable to find information to update this project.

5-1 e. Develop a revised publication on “Research and Extension Priorities.”

Output: Deliver copies to all extension offices and production agriculture organizations.

Results:

- A needs assessment was completed in October 2003 to identify research and extension needs for the UW College of Agriculture. The assessment has been used to guide UW Cooperative Extension programming initiatives and research priorities for the UW Agricultural Experiment Station Research and Extension centers and the College of Agriculture.

5-1 f. Promote research on grazing exclosures throughout Wyoming to accurately measure vegetative impacts.

Output: Publicize the results of the survey.

Results:

- WDA worked with Dr. Mike Smith on several TRTs (Split Rock, Crow Creek, North Gooseberry, Big Sandstone, and Little Sandstone) to illustrate the

value and benefit of grazing by using the grazing exclosures as a scientific way of showing decreased plant vigor, mineral, carbon, and water cycles as compared to areas outside of the exclosures where proper grazing management occurred.

- WDA Natural Resource Division worked with the University of Wyoming in developing a program whereby 19 soil moisture sensors were installed across the state to predict forage production and in several situations avoided preliminary AUM cuts by federal land management agencies. The sensors provided the livestock industry with additional information upon which to make management decisions.



Goal #6

Reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on agriculture.

6-1. Develop a pro-active strategy for water quality concerns/issues.

6-1 a. Evaluate the needs of agriculture in addressing the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Output: Review state, federal and local regulations that impact agriculture.

Results:

- Being completed through watershed planning.

6-1 b. Increase data and improve the science with the CWA.

Output: Develop a “white paper” that evaluates Wyoming’s progress in developing credible data, identifying the strengths and weaknesses and report the recommendations to the Wyoming Legislature.

Results:

- WACE has developed a 3-module training course in conjunction with UW to ensure that water quality data collected by conservation districts is credible. UW is also conducting water quality data collection “field audits” to ensure that proper methods are used to collect credible data.

6-1 c. Continue to utilize the watershed planning process to address impaired water, thus reducing any need to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads.

Output: Have a minimal number of TMDLs in Wyoming and increase the number of pro-active efforts in watershed planning by 5% per year.

Results:

- Strategy has been developed and has resulted in two new positions within the at WACD and NRCS to assist conservation districts with water quality programs.

6-1 d. Define the AFO and CAFO issues with a strategy to address them. Address funding assistance for producers (federal, state and local).

Output: Monitor strategy and prepare an annual report in November for on-going implementation.

Results:

- AFO/CAFO workshops were done throughout Wyoming.
- Federally, the issue did not make it through to completion.

6-1 e. Support watershed planning. Through the ESA and CWA, apply for funding with the Water Development Commission, Department of Environmental Quality and other sources.

Output: Increase the number of pro-active efforts in watershed planning by 5% per year.

Results:

- Funding was received through the WDA's natural resource budget to support watershed planning.

6-1 f. Develop a strategy that demonstrates agriculture's contribution to clean water.

Output: Perform two workshops annually.

Results:

- All completed watershed plan contain sections entitle "Water Quality Efforts to Date' and "Implementation Documentation: that record and track all efforts taken by ag producers, regardless of funding, in past and current projects with potential positive impacts for water quality.

6-1 g. Develop partnerships with other industries, i.e., oil, gas, timber, recreation, etc., on water quality issues that impact their industries.

Output: Annually meet and evaluate the effectiveness of partnerships.

Results:

- All watershed plans lay out a strategy for coordination with entities affected by water quality issues. Districts submit approval progress reports and host annual update meetings for watershed planning.

6-2. Address concerns related to the Endangered Species Act.

6-2 a. Develop a strategy to improve the Endangered Species Act.

Output: A. Review tools like state conservation agreements, candidate conservation agreements with assurances and landowner incentives.

B. Address needed changes in the federal legislation.

C. Evaluate the strategy annually.

Results:

- On all ESA issues, the state has commented and provided strategy on the improvements needed to satisfy the concerns of the state and its respective agencies. The Wyoming G&F and the WDA reviewed all Section 10 programs for their effectiveness. Currently, only one Section 10 program exists in Wyoming. It is for the Wyoming Toad involving a couple hundred acres. To date, the USFWS has shown interest in developing HCPs, CCAAs or other conservation agreements for other endangered species in Wyoming.
- Federal legislation is annually proposed to reform the ESA.

6-2 b. Identify agency misinterpretations of ESA and its applications.

Output: Present misinterpretations to the Governor, Fish and Wildlife Service Director and the Congressional delegation.

Results:

- On all ESA issues, the state has commented and provided strategy on the improvements needed to satisfy the concerns of the state and its respective agencies. The Wyoming G&F and WDA reviewed all Section 10 programs for their effectiveness. Currently, only one Section 10 program exists in Wyoming. It is for the Wyoming Toad involving a couple hundred acres. To date, the USFWS has shown interest in developing HCPs, CCAAs or other conservation agreements for other endangered species in Wyoming.
- Federal legislation is annually proposed to reform the ESA.

6-2 c. Identify specific examples of problems caused by ESA.

Output: Present concerns to the Governor, Fish and Wildlife Service Director and the Congressional delegation.

Results:

- Completed.
- With every comment the WDA Natural Resource and Policy Division crafts, specific examples of ESA problems, failures and wrongdoings are outlined and discussed. Examples include the Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Sage Grouse, Grizzly Bear, Bald Eagle, and Preble's Mouse. The WDA comments on all ESA impacts to Wyoming. Comments are presented to the Governor and USFWS staff. Congressional delegation interaction is minimal.
- While the WDA may have minimal interaction with the Congressional Delegation regarding ESA, ag groups have very strong and ongoing discussions regarding ESA issues.

6-3. Identify other regulatory burdens that impact agriculture.

6-3 a. Develop a strategy to minimize regulatory impacts on agriculture.

Output: Develop and implement a strategy to be reviewed annually.

Results:

- Unable to find any information to update this project.

6-3 b. Improve communications on state positions or key ag issues with ag organizations.

Output: All positions by the State will be relayed to ag organizations within one week.

Results:

- WDA posts public comments on the Natural Resources and Policy web site.

6-3 c. Develop a document that exhibits cumulative impact of regulatory burdens on the bottom-line in agriculture.

Output: Present a document to the Governor and the Congressional delegation.

Results:

- Unable to find any information to update this project.

6-4. Identify actions to reduce judicial impacts on agriculture.

6-4 a. Develop potential legislation to minimize frivolous lawsuits. These lawsuits need to have consequences.

Output: Passage of congressional language to accomplish this action.

Results:

- Tort reform legislation and similar efforts have not been successful.



Goal #7

Utilize and develop Wyoming's water resources.

7-1. Develop a state program with the Water Development Commission to encourage smaller water development projects.

7-1 a. Seek two pilot projects to promote water development with the Wyoming Water Development Commission. Drought assistance is needed now. Look at potential cost-share programs on federal, state and private land. Evaluate other partners for assistance: NRCS, BLM, FS, G&F, etc.

Output: Develop the criteria for projects.

Develop ten on-the-ground water projects.

Results:

- Strived for but not accomplished.
- Grants for solar pumps in collaboration with UW.

7-1 b. Identify and promote a strategy for small water development for livestock and wildlife. Work with federal and state government officials to develop and maintain livestock/wildlife water storage.

Output: Develop 20 additional water projects statewide.

Results:

- On-going.
- Projects have been completed on public lands but very little project completion on private lands.
- The issue of "public benefit" on private lands is yet to be determined.

7-1 c. Initiate a strategy to increase the amount of storage of Wyoming's water.

Output: Increase storage by 5% per year.

Results:

- Unable to find any information.

7-1 d. Provide landowners with information regarding funding opportunities for water development.

Output: Develop and distribute a brochure with all the tools available.

Results:

- High Savery Dam has been put in; other projects are on-going both large and small scale.

7-1 e. Research ways to use CBM water-including for agriculture.

Output: Develop a “white paper” for the potential use of water in separate areas of the State.

Results:

- WDA Natural Resources Division assisted the Governor’s Office in developing and implementing the Coal Bed Methane Task force to effectively address CBM concerns, utilize CBM water, and improve relationships with CBM developers and federal agencies.
- Several presentations have been given including a power point presentation which highlighted some of the major benefits and concerns with CBM production.

7-1 f. Develop coal bed methane partnerships to increase water developments.

Output: Increase the number of cooperative projects installed by 10%.

Results:

- Work on partnerships is on-going.
- WDA Natural Resources Division Assisted with the CBM Task Force and also initiated the CRM process on the Helen Jones’ ranch to increase the potential for CBM water developments and to effectively address other resource concerns.
- WDA’s Natural Resources and Policy Division also initiated the Robert Brug CRM to accomplish the same.

7-1 g. Streamline the funding process within the Water Development Commission.

Output: Develop an evaluation of the pilot projects.

Results:

- Working on this project.

7-2. Develop an on-farm and ranch agriculture water conservation grant/loan program.

7-2 a. Encourage grants and low interest loans to ag producers for improving water application efficiency.

Output: Create a low interest loan and a State Treasurer investment program for ag producers.

Results:

- Not completed.

7-3. Improve water use efficiency.

7-3 a. Bridging the Headgate. Create more effective and efficient water storage, conveyance, distribution and application.

Output: To allow systems for on-farm and ranch applications through irrigation districts.

Results:

- Not completed.

7-4. Expand and enhance irrigated land opportunities.

7-4 a. Evaluate the potential for irrigation reservoirs from coal bed methane water.

Output: Promote two new irrigation reservoirs as pilot projects in the Powder River Basin.

Results:

- Work was done by producers on an individual basis; no cooperative effort to accomplish this was made.

7-4 b. Evaluate the impacts of the North Platte River Compact.

Output: Develop recommendations to allow ag producers to work with the agreement.

Results:

7-5. Evaluate opportunities to develop additional precipitation.

7-5 a. Evaluate the potential for cloud seeding.

Output: If feasible, develop a long-term program for Wyoming.

Results:

- There is a cloud seeding program in place.

Provided support and testimony to obtain \$8 million for the WWDC to implement three cloud seeding pilot projects across Wyoming over the next 5 years.